

THE LIGHT.

Imagine What
Kansas Citians
Would Do Without
City Union Mission

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YOUR MISSION.
CITY UNION MISSION.

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Administrative Offices

1100 E. 11th Street

Kansas City, MO 64106

(816) 474-9380

www.cityunionmission.org

info@cumission.org

Connecting with You

From the
Executive
Director



Royals Vice President Toby Cook and Director of Community Outreach Betty Kaegel joined Dan Doty at our Family Shelter when the Royals Charities organization provided and served a meal to our residents in November.

Dear Friend,

One of my favorite expressions is “pray and move your feet.” It’s a colorful and contemporary reminder that “faith without works is dead.” It’s also a perfect description of the efforts of dear partners like you throughout this past year.

Over the summer, I shared my fiscal concerns as donated income fell short of budgeted projections. I asked for your support . . . and your prayers and labors moved mountains! I’m pleased to report that by the end of 2009, we’d defeated the deficit, and we started the new year on a firm financial footing.

Your prayers are powerful. It’s your compassion for the needy and commitment to God’s plan that give them their strength. Thank you for standing beside us in every way possible. You are truly God’s gift to the poor . . . and to City Union Mission.

For His glory,

Rev. Daniel J. Doty
Executive Director

P.S.

This is our first issue of *The Light* that incorporates our new logo and tag line, designed to better reflect our purpose: **City Union Mission is wherever it needs to be—in the lives and trials of those it helps, in the hands of its benefactors, in the most underserved parts of our city.** Thank you for helping bring our purpose to life, every day of the year.

Mission Receives 4-Star Rating for Fiscal Management



Charity Navigator, America’s premier charity evaluator, recently awarded City Union Mission a third consecutive 4-star rating for its ability to efficiently manage and grow its finances. According to the announcement, only 12 percent of the charities rated have received at least three consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating City Union Mission consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way, and outperforms most other charities in America. The favorable review was received with enthusiasm

by the Mission’s board members and staff, after working through a series of financial challenges in the preceding months while making every effort to adhere to Charity Navigator’s stringent guidelines. Charity Navigator says the “exceptional” designation differentiates City Union Mission from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worthy of their trust.



If It Wasn't for the Mission ...

Felicia recently graduated from the Mission's New Life Program and is eager to begin her new life in Christ and rebuild her relationship with her children.



"I would have ended up on the street—I know I would have," says Felicia, a graduate of City Union Mission's New Life Program.

Unlike many program participants, Felicia wasn't battling substance abuse when she came to us for help. Instead, she suffered debilitating depression after feeling rejected throughout her life by the men she'd relied on for love and self-esteem: her own father, the father of her oldest child, and finally her husband.

After her divorce, she and her children found a place of their own. But over the years, her depression became so severe she couldn't hold a job—nor could she care for her children properly, so she sent them to live with their father. When she could no longer pay the rent, her landlord was gracious enough to help her find safe shelter . . . at City Union Mission.

"When I was first introduced to the Mission, I was scared to come," Felicia says. "But at least I knew I wouldn't be sleeping on the street." As soon as she arrived, she was greeted with warmth and acceptance, and she knew she'd come to the right place.

"I knew there was a purpose for me being here, and I was ready to find out what it was!" Felicia recalls. But first she had to overcome the bitterness and pain she still felt toward men, even Jesus Christ. "I'd been abandoned by every other man in my life, so I didn't even trust Him." We helped her understand that while mortal men had hurt her, the Immortal One never would. "With Christ, I was finally able to peel away the wall that had encased my heart for 20 years."

In our New Life Program, Felicia also re-learned life skills that had been overshadowed by her depression. We provided training in setting goals and managing a budget. And we helped her write a résumé and practice sound interview techniques. "But most important, I learned the only 'someone' I need to lean on and depend on is God. I've always tried to win approval and please other people, which made for a very unhappy life. With Him, I don't worry about that."

Felicia recently was hired for a full-time job, and she's rebuilding her relationship with her kids who are now young adults. Her dream is to start a shelter for women and children and to teach them how to make tough life choices and who to lean on to make those decisions.

"It's been a wonderful journey back, not only to Christ, but to myself," Felicia says. "The Lord truly, truly blessed me when He sent me to the Mission. Today, I can't see myself making a move without Him!"

If it wasn't for the Mission, Felicia might have been forced to live on the streets, with her depression continuing to control her life. If it weren't for friends like you, the Mission wouldn't be here when people like Felicia need help so desperately. God bless you for your continued support.

A Changing Ministry to Meet Changing Times

When we opened our new Christian Life Center in 2008, it not only doubled the number of men we could serve, it also gave us the opportunity to serve them better. For the past 18 months, we've been evaluating our recovery program, identifying gaps to a well-rounded curriculum, and restructuring our course of study to offer contemporary skills that take into account today's technology.

Thirty-one courses are now offered to students in our Christian Life Program, doubling the number of class hours available. Among the new studies are physical hygiene, spiritual self-defense and communications. Foundation classes like financial management are now scheduled earlier in the course curriculum. And other courses offered only periodically have been worked into the regular sequence.

Very popular with residents is our new learning center where computers are available for developing workplace skills and accessing online training. We're also "teaching the teachers" to help our volunteer and staff instructors gain effective training techniques for this special category of adult students from a variety of backgrounds and education levels. With your partnership, we'll continue to evaluate and adjust our curriculum to ensure our students have the best opportunities to build stable and self-sufficient lives.

Mission staff has received positive feedback from recovery program students on new courses of training and study.

City Union Mission: Part of a Team Serving Millions

According to the Association of Gospel Rescue Missions' (AGRM) 20th annual Snapshot Survey of the Homeless, every year faith-based ministries that are members of the organization serve approximately 42 million meals, provide more than 15 million nights of lodging, distribute more than 27 million pieces of clothing, bandage the wounds of hundreds of abuse victims and graduate 18,000-plus homeless men and women from addiction recovery programs into productive living. Included in these statistics are tallies from City Union Mission, one of the AGRM's largest

members. This past year, from January through November, your gifts helped us provide:

January – November 2009

Daily average of homeless sleeping overnight	385
Daily average of meals served	940
Approx. number of patients seen for medical issues	8,235
Daily average of homeless attending chapel services	220
Approx. number of salvations and rededications	584

FINANCIAL UPDATE Amount Raised as of 12/16/09 **\$2,289,825** FY2010 Budget **\$7,177,000**

The Staggering Cost of Homelessness



What would it cost if there were no place for the homeless to come in from the cold . . . to escape the dangers of the street . . . to get help if they're sick or injured . . . if there were no place like City Union Mission?

In a recent YouTube video, the Kansas City Police Department estimates it receives 25 calls per week involving the homeless. If circumstances result in the need for additional responders, an emergency room visit, a hospital stay or any number of other possible services, a single incident could cost taxpayers more than \$5,000. The elimination of just one incident per day could save more than \$1.9 million per year.

Because of your support, there **is** a place where the homeless can go to get the help they need. At City Union Mission, we know even as we partner with other shelters in the city, we can't house every homeless individual on any given night. But we're committed to reaching as many as possible. Your gifts not only save their lives, they actually save you money. God bless you for your commitment to our work.

To view the YouTube video mentioned in this article, link to www.youtube.com/watch?v=F16J5Pjn95o.



City Union Mission's VML team: Ryan Simonet, Allison Fisher and Ben Carmean

Mission's Web Look Gets a Lift

City Union Mission recently launched a revamped Web site that reflects the community-backed, hands-on focus in the services we offer Kansas City's most vulnerable citizens. The site also features our new logo and

tagline—Your City. Your Mission.—that will be incorporated throughout the Mission's publications and organizational materials. The new site and logo were designed by digital marketing agency **VML** on a pro-bono basis.

"At VML, we feel it's important to give back to Kansas City," says Allison Fisher, lead account manager for the project. "This year, the **VML Foundation** identified City Union Mission as a vital part of the community." Ben Carmean, lead designer for the agency, says he views the new logo less as a redesign and more as a punctuation of the Mission's overall message. "The creative team visited the Mission and were awed by the breadth of the services they offer. We wanted people interested in finding out about the Mission to have great knowledge of what they do. I believe that desire is reflected in the new design."

The Mission extends our heartfelt gratitude to VML for their talented efforts, commitment and partnership.

Caring Corporations Make a Difference

Treats for Toilet Paper

On November 21, paper rolled in and soft drinks flowed out at metro-area **Sonic Drive-Ins**, as customers who brought toilet tissue or other paper products to donate to City Union Mission were treated to a free slush or limeade. Sonic's goal was to collect a six-month supply of bathroom tissue—approximately 35,000 rolls—to cover one of our greatest expenses. Thank you to all **Sonic Drive-Ins**, employees and customers who participated!

"Hamming" It Up for the Holidays

Hy-Vee and **Cedar Hollow Ham** company teamed up once again this year to provide a pallet of hams for the holiday meals served in our shelters: four hams to a box, 100 boxes to a pallet. Now that's a mountain of hams—and Lonnie Murrow, donation coordinator, offers a mountain of appreciation in return!

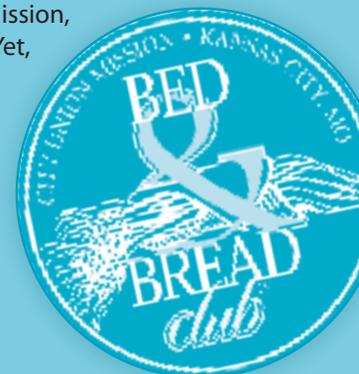


BED & BREAD CLUB Ensures Year-Round Support

All organizations experience natural ebb and flow in their income cycles. For nonprofits like City Union Mission, it's typical to receive the greatest influx of contributions from Thanksgiving through the end of the year. Yet, as you're well aware, people aren't hungry and homeless only during the holiday season. That's why the Mission's **BED & BREAD CLUB** is so important.

We're truly grateful for our more than 800 **BED & BREAD CLUB** members who pledge to send a contribution monthly or quarterly—or in an annual lump sum. Their gifts ensure we have a steady income so we can provide food and shelter year-round for those in need.

If you're not already a member and would like to become part of this vital group, simply check the box on the enclosed reply card or sign up online at www.cityunionmission.org. God bless you!



Calendar of Events

4/20



Women Who've Changed the Heart of the City

Tuesday, April 20 • Hyatt Regency Ballroom

Join City Union Mission at this special banquet to shine a light on women who are working every day to change the heart of Kansas City. Proceeds from this third annual luncheon event benefit the Mission's Camp CUMCITO.

Shedding Pounds with a Mission

2/10

This unique weight-loss program encourages five-person teams from organizations of all sizes to shed pounds in a 10-week competition—while helping provide basic essentials for Kansas City's less fortunate. The deadline for entering your organization is February 10. Winners will receive prizes in addition to improved health.

21st Annual Bikers with a Mission

5/2

Join motorcycle enthusiasts from around the area on **Sunday, May 2**, for this annual run for the homeless. More than 400 bikers participated last year in the 100-mile ride to benefit City Union Mission's programs and services. To register online and begin collecting pledges now, visit www.bikerswithamission.org.

2nd Annual City Union Mission Golf Classic

Tee-off to help the homeless! Sponsored by **Fiorella's Jack Stack Barbecue**, the popular tournament is scheduled for the fall, and funds raised will help the Mission provide food, shelter and life-changing recovery programs.

For more information or to participate in these upcoming events, call (816) 474-9380, e-mail events@cumission.org or visit www.cityunionmission.org.

JOB FAIR Offers Education and Vocational Insight for Mission Residents

After losing their own jobs and discovering the joy of relying on the Lord to fulfill His plan for their lives, **Phyllis Farnsworth** and **Angela Morgan** were eager to bless others as they had been blessed. So they partnered with **Macedonia Baptist Church**, where Angela is a member, to host a job fair for the Mission's Men's Shelter and the surrounding community.

Metropolitan Community Colleges, DeVry University, First Step Fund and **United Services** participated in providing opportunities for both the employed and unemployed to better equip themselves in the workplace. Information on educational scholarships and

financial-aid programs was also offered.

CW Rucker, case manager at the Mission's Men's Shelter, said the job fair encouraged guests to attend additional job fairs and to seek other educational opportunities. "It also made me more aware of what our residents need," he said.

The Mission is grateful to all the individuals and organizations involved for helping residents and neighbors takes steps to build bright futures.



Have an Impact as a High Impact Volunteer

Visit www.cityunionmission.org or contact Bret Kroh at (816) 474-9380, ext. 1469 or highimpact@cumission.org if you have a heart for these volunteer opportunities and would like to learn more!

Afterschool Tutors: Guide students in our afterschool programs as they complete their homework and study materials.

Camp: Help provide a meaningful and educational week at camp for inner-city kids. Volunteers serve one-week time slots as counselors, kitchen staff, nurses or other support program staff from late June through early August.

Virtual Volunteers: Volunteer for the Mission from the comfort of your home!

- Make phone calls of appreciation to donors and extend event invitations
- Develop, update and maintain the Mission's presence in various Web applications, including blogs, online discussions, Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter and more
- Drive attention to the Mission's Web site that advertises our events, stores and other opportunities for partnership
- Join our online team to pray for the needs of the Mission